



angel TREE MISSION



The Speerin Family

Battling: 31-year-old, Breanna

One of Jamie's Hope's own volunteers was diagnosed with Stage 4 Melanoma on August 27th, shortly after volunteering at the *Jamie's Hope Golf Tournament for a Cure* in May 2018 where she raised over \$2,000.

In the time between diagnosis and treatment, Breanna's condition worsened when the cancer spread, and she developed blood clots in her lungs. Her pain and discomfort were severe, and she spent a week in the

ICU and on oxygen in order to breathe. It was agonizing for her family to wait three weeks to finally get the results that she was B-RAF positive and begin targeted treatment.

In the six weeks since treatment began, improvement is occurring and her pain has diminished but she has a long way to go. Breanna has just been accepted as a patient of MD Anderson, so her family hopes to soon learn whether other treatment options will be available.

Bree has worked in the service industry and loves people. She's single and loves her independent lifestyle, living with her long-hair chihuahua, Reeses. It wasn't easy coming to the conclusion that, because her illness made her too weak to work, she doesn't have an income and couldn't keep her apartment. She's now staying with her sister, niece and brother-in-law, and her mom and step-dad help with daily care and appointments.

Help with living and medical expenses would be a welcome blessing. Breanna's prognosis isn't yet known as she's too early in her treatment. Her family derives strength from the love and prayers from family and friends, and all pray daily that she'll recover from this.

Bree's niece, Louice (12), is an avid gymnast and recently wrote this insightful story for a school assignment (below).

Healthy, happy and lively; that's what my aunt was before she got diagnosed with Melanoma cancer. It was so out of the blue it took everyone by surprise. Once we heard the news, all of my family dropped everything to stand by her through the fight. That one word the doctor said changed my family's life forever. One word, one moment, one death, one birth, it can all happen so suddenly but make all the difference.

This year we join to help this family have a wonderful Christmas!